

***AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS***

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

***Claims:***

1. (Cancelled).
- 2 (Cancelled).
3. (Original) A method, comprising the steps of:  
monitoring travel data associated with the vehicle;  
comparing planned timing of the vehicle along a route to updated vehicle status information;  
contacting a user communications device before the vehicle reaches a vehicle stop along the route; and  
informing the user of the vehicle delay with respect to the vehicle stop and of updated impending arrival of the vehicle at the vehicle stop, based upon the updated vehicle status information and the planned timing.
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Cancelled).
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Original) A system, comprising:  
means for monitoring travel data associated with a vehicle;  
means for comparing planned timing of the vehicle along a route to updated vehicle status information;

means for contacting a user communications device before the vehicle reaches a vehicle stop along the route; and

means for informing the user of the vehicle delay with respect to the vehicle stop and of updated impending arrival of the vehicle at the vehicle stop, based upon the updated vehicle status information and the planned timing.

9. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the comparing step includes the step of evaluating the vehicle's current location to a scheduled location in order to determine if the vehicle is on time or late.

10. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of comparing includes the step of evaluating the vehicle's progress along the route in terms of time with respect to a scheduled time that the vehicle should reach a location.

11. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the route has a plurality of vehicle stops and wherein the comparing step is performed based upon the vehicle's progress along the stops of the route.

12. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the user is informed via a message that is communicated, at least in part, over the internet.

13. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the travel data comprises scheduled stop information.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of updating the scheduled stop information based upon tracking information pertaining to the vehicle.

15. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the method is performed by a computer system that is a single computer or that comprises a distributed architecture with a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled.

16. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the method is performed by a computer system and further comprising the steps of permitting a party to establish a communication session with the computer system and permitting the party to define one or more preferences criteria that, once met, will cause initiation of the communication to the user advising of the vehicle delay.

17. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the user is informed by initiating a communication to a computer, television, pager, or telephone.

18. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for comparing includes a means for evaluating the vehicle's current location to a scheduled location in order to determine if the vehicle is on time or late.

19. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the means for comparing includes a means for evaluating the vehicle's progress along the route in terms of time with respect to a scheduled time that the vehicle should reach a location.

20. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the route has a plurality of vehicle stops and wherein the means for comparing analyzes the vehicle's progress along the stops of the route.

21. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the user is informed via a message that is communicated, at least in part, over the internet.

22. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the travel data comprises scheduled stop information.

23. (New) The system of claim 22, further comprising a means for updating the scheduled stop information based upon tracking information pertaining to the vehicle.

24. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the system is a single computer or comprises a distributed architecture with a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled.

25. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the system is a computer system and further comprising a means for permitting a party to establish a communication session with the computer system and permitting the party to define one or more preferences criteria that, once met, will cause initiation of the communication to the user advising of the vehicle delay.

26. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein the user is informed by initiating a communication to a computer, television, pager, or telephone.